



MINUTES OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION MEETING OF JUNE 12, 2008

2226 Santa Clara Avenue
Alameda, CA 94501
(510) 747-7529

DATE: Thursday, June 12, 2008
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
PLACE: Room 360, City Hall, Santa Clara Avenue and Oak Street, Alameda, CA 94501

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Terri Ogden, Vice Chair Joe Restagno, Commissioners Lola Brown, Mike Cooper, Jo Kahuanui, Gina Mariani (late) and Bill Sonneman

Staff: Dale Lillard, Director
John McDonald, Park Manager (PM)

Absent: None

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M/S/C KAHUANUI/RESTAGNO (approved)

“That the Minutes of May 8, 2008 Recreation and Park Commission Meeting are approved.”

Approved (3): Ogden, Restagno, Kahuanui,
Absent (1): Mariani (late)
Abstained (3): Brown, Cooper, Sonneman

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, AGENDA

(Any person may address the Commission in regard to any matter over which the Commission has jurisdiction or of which it may take cognizance that is not on the agenda.)

Stuart Rickard, Littlejohn Park neighbor, spoke regarding some of his concerns (e.g., noise, crowded, parking, jump house noise, etc.) regarding the weekend parties at the park. He is looking forward to working with staff to help alleviate the problems. Neighbors will have a picnic to discuss possible solutions. Mr. Rickard stated that its amazing what the Recreation and Park Department does for the community and told staff to keep up with the good work.

M/S/C Kahuanui/Sonneman (approved)

“That ARPD staff write a letter to the Police Department and ask for assistance in the parks on the weekends. The Commission would like to have APD check permits and make sure there is no alcohol is being consumed in the parks.”

4. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Review and Discussion of Lincoln Park Field Renovation Plans – (Information Item)

PM McDonald reviewed with the Commission the Lincoln Park Field Renovation Plans. The plans call for new irrigation, new turf, and the ball field will remain in the same location, dirt area will be leveled where another field used to be in the southeast corner, and some regrading will be done.

Commissioner Restagno asked if there will be a grass infield. PM McDonald stated there is an alternate bid for a grass infield. Having a grass infield may be a good idea because the infield mix is getting very expensive and it needs to be trucked in, etc. Also some of the homes are very close to the field, and as much as everyone tries to water the field the dust still ends up on the homes. It would not eliminate all the dirt problems, but would help alleviate the dust problem.

Commissioner Cooper asked how the field is used. PM McDonald stated that it is strictly used for hardball play. The only issue is if there are enough funds to do a grass infield.

Commissioner Kahuanui asked how the project will be funded. PM McDonald stated that funds for the project will come from the General Fund.

Commissioner Sonneman asked for clarification regarding the Rittler Park renovation being put on hold. PM McDonald stated that the Rittler Park Field Renovation was recently put out to bid and is scheduled to begin on July 7, 2008.

Commissioner Cooper stated that he thought the City was going to start the Harrison Center first. PM McDonald stated that the building renovation was postponed at a Council Meeting and Council moved the field renovation up.

PM McDonald also stated that the City has received notice from EBMUD about water rationing and it is impossible to keep up a new turf with the specs which require watering every day. PM McDonald is recommending to the Recreation & Park Commission and Public Works Department that the Lincoln Park Field Renovation be postponed.

M/S/C KAHUANUI/BROWN (approved)

“That Lincoln Park Field Renovation be postponed until after the drought and that Rittler Field Renovation be done first.”

Approved (7): Ogden, Restagno, Brown, Cooper, Kahuanui, Mariani, Sonneman

B. Discussion of Use of Chairs in the Washington Park Dog Park – (Discussion Item)

PM McDonald provided an overview of a problem that staff is having with the use of personal chairs at the Washington Park Dog Park. Approximately one year ago, PM McDonald met with dog park users regarding the problem and for a while things were kept cleaned up (e.g., chairs stacked, etc.). Staff also recently installed some benches and the large dog park users really appreciated the benches, but the small dog park users do not like them.

Commissioner Restagno stated that patrons can bring in folding chairs and then take their chairs home with them. Chair Ogden stated that the problem is that the users do not take their chairs home, they leave them at the park. PM McDonald stated that some patrons have stated that it is difficult for them to take chairs in and out of the facility everyday so they leave it at the site.

Commissioner Kahuanui asked for clarification on what the users can do for now. PM McDonald stated that for now, users can use plastic chairs but they need to stack them up before they leave the area.

Director Lillard stated that there is quite a conglomeration of items. Some patrons bring plastic chairs others bring metal ones. Staff would like to have some kind of guideline/policy so that the area will not be unsafe or cluttered.

Director Lillard stated that this item will be on next month's agenda for discussion/action on approving a policy/guideline for use of chairs in the park.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

7. REPORTS FROM RECREATION COMMISSION AND RECREATION AND PARK DIRECTOR

A. Park Division

See June 5, 2008 Activity Report.

B. Recreation Division

See June 5, 2008 Activity Report.

C. Mastick Senior Center

See June 5, 2008 Activity Report.

D. Other Reports and Announcements

8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, GENERAL

9. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

10. SET DAY FOR NEXT MEETING Thursday, July 10, 2008

11. ADJOURNMENT